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JUL 21 2004

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

In re application of : DECISION ON PETITION
Steven Paul Jones : TO MAKE SPECIAL
Application No. 09/903,177 : (ENERGY)
Filed: July 11, 2001 :
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO VARY FUEL
PRICES FOR VEHICLES BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL
AND CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

This is a decision on the petition filed July 11, 2001 under 37 CFR 1.102 (c) to make the above-identified application special under the procedure set forth in MPEP 708.02, Section VI: Energy.

A grantable petition to make an application special under 37 C.F.R. 1.102 (c), MPEP 708.02, Section VI for an invention which materially contributes to (A) the discovery or development of energy resources, or (B) the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources must be accompanied by statements under 37 CFR 1.102 by applicants or their attorney explaining how the invention materially contributes to category (A) or (B) set forth above.

The petitioner states that the invention contributes to the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy by providing a method and apparatus to influence driver vehicle purchases by causing "desirable" vehicles to pay a lower per unit fuel price at the pump. This allows for fuel to be conserved as vehicle buyers will be incited to purchase vehicles that qualify for lower per unit fuel prices.

For the above stated reasons, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications; (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn; and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference and appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt *bona fide* effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.



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SNM/vdb: 7/19/04